Southport Savings Bank
226 Main Street
Southport
Fairfield County
Connecticut

HABS No. CONN-315

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

HABS
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY HABS No. CONN-315

SOUTHPORT SAVINGS BANK

Location: 226 Main Street (northwest side of street), Southport, Fairfield County, Connecticut.

USGS Westport Quadrangle Map; Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 18.644040.4554780.

Present Owner and Occupant: Southport Savings Bank.

Present Use: Bank.

Statement of Significance: The Southport Savings Bank was erected in 1863-65, and designed according to the plans for the Danbury (Connecticut) Bank. The original building specifications for the mason and carpentry work have been preserved and are valuable records of mid-nineteenth century construction techniques. Because of this handsome structure's institutional function and utilitarian design, it is one of Southport's most important surviving buildings from this period. The Savings Bank was chartered in 1854 and became a branch of the Bridgeport Bank in 1955.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1863-65. The building was occupied on June 24, 1865.

2. Architect: No information available.

3. Original and subsequent owners: The Board of Managers of the Southport Bank (then located at 227 Main Street), met in 1857 to "consider the advisability of erecting a new building." The Southport Savings Bank was chartered by the General Assembly of Connecticut in May 1854, and organized in September 1854. The land upon which the Savings Bank now stands was acquired sometime between 1854 and 1863. The bank merged with Bridgeport People's Savings Bank on July 1, 1955, becoming the Southport Branch of the People's Savings Bank of Bridgeport. The building thus became a property holding of this firm. On June 1, 1956, the Southport Branch bank was sold to Mrs. Caroline Lipscomb, the present owner of the property.

4. Builders, suppliers: The Southport firm of Sherman & Jelliff were awarded the contract to provide the materials and complete the carpentry and masonry work on the new bank.

5. Original plan and construction: The original building specifications for the masons' work and materials and the carpentry work and materials of this two-story brick structure exist. Together with the original plans, the specifications provide a definitive history of the structure as originally constructed. A copy of this document is quoted in its entirety in Part I, Section D, "Supplementary Material."

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

The Southport Savings Bank obtained a charter from the Connecticut General Assembly in May 1854, and was organized on September 25 of that year. Original incorporators included Paschal Sheffield, Austin Perry, Wakeman B. Meeker, Charles Perry, Francis D. Perry, E.D. Sherwood, John Meeker, Frederick Marquand, and Andrew Bulkley. The board of managers voted to erect a new building, located at the foot of Main Street so as to be accessible to shipowners, shop keepers, the farmer patronage, and commercial traders. Work on the new bank at 226 Main Street began in 1863, and the building was occupied on June 24, 1865. The bank merged with Bridgeport People's Savings Bank on July 1, 1955, becoming the Southport Branch of the People's Savings Bank - Bridgeport.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old Views:

Photographs, view of Main Street looking south with Savings Bank at the right. No fence on front. Pequot Library File Number 41, Pequot Library, Southport.

Plans, second floor and basement, 1863-65. Originals are in the possession of the Southport Savings Bank, 226 Main Street, Southport.

2. Bibliography:

a. Primary and unpublished sources:

Nichols, E. Perkins, Trustee of Southport Savings Bank, correspondance, January 1895.

Sherwood, H.B., "Banking History of Southport, Conn.," m.s., February 2, 1949.

"Southport Savings Bank," history, prepared by and in the possession of the Savings Bank, Southport.

Specifications for the Masons' work and materials and for the Carpenters' work and materials, Southport Savings Bank Committee to Sherman & Jelliff, Southport builders, September 13, 1864.

b. Secondary and published sources:

Fairfield Historic District Commission. Final Report: Establishment of Historic Districts in Greenfield Hill and Southport. Fairfield, 1966.

Harris, H. Patterson, "Southport Savings Bank, 100th Anniversary, 1854-1954." Southport, Southport Savings Bank, 1954.

D. Supplementary Material:

The following is a copy of the original building specifications for the masons' and carpenters' work for the Southport Savings Bank, dated September 13, 1864.

Specifications for the Masons work and materials on the Savings Bank Building at Southport, Ct. -

Building to be 45 feet long by 26 feet wide, two stories high; and to be finished in similar style with the Danbury Bank Building and of similar materials; excepting in dimensions and other particulars to be stated. -

Height of Stories	no cellar - Foundation wall not less than 3 feet and six inches below underpinning at the top of the ground First story 12 feet Second story 11 feet all in the clear of floors and ceilings when finished. Heighth from top of water table to top of cornice as shown on elevation.
Roof	Gravel Hip Roof Pitch of roof to be like Episcopal church and to be of slate and running the length of building (& not hipped as shown of Elevation)
Excavations	Excavations made by contractor and flat stones laid by him at the bottom of foundation for walls. Upon these to lay a wall in cement mortar as per plan up to the bottom of underpinning which is to be six inches above the ground line.
Underpinning	The underpinning to be 3 feet high all round - On three sides hard free stone polished in three courses On the Rear common stone which as the owner may elect. The free stone ashlar to be not less than 5 inches thick.

Water table	This is to be a water table of free stone on three sides as per plan
Vault	The vault of 1st story to be built on a solid foundation projecting 6 inches beyond the walls of the vault. To be laid up with rough stone well granite in cement mortar, every 12" inches. The walls of the vault to be built of granite laid in course 2 feet thick on three sides and a foot on the remaining side as per plan; no stone less than 3 feet in length. To be coursed top and bottom by blocks of granite not less than 10 feet long and 1 foot thick - The vault to be 9 feet in the clear between floor and ceiling. The inside of vault to be bricked up with one course of brick with one plastered with white wall. All of the stones about the vault to be laid in hydraulic cement and doweled with iron bolts or balls. Iron doors furnished by owners but put in by contractor. The space between the roof of vault and the floor of vault above in 2nd story to be filled in with stone well granted in cement mortar; and leveled off for the floors of vault in 2nd story.
Second Story Vault	Vault in 2nd story to be built of brick as per plan. Walls 2 feet thick and arched over on top and secured by iron bolts running through to prevent spreading. Brick laid in cement mortar. - and plastered inside -- both vaults with two brown coats tone white hard finish. -- and floor of both cemented over smooth - All the 2nd story floors to be deepened with sand and lime mortar 2 inches thick, and finished level with top of joists.
Iron	Furnish all necessary iron ties anchors and clamps for brick and stone work.
Lathing	All the lathing is to be done with the best mason lath, reversing the heading joints every 18 inches. The best lime sand and hair to be used in the mortar.
Hard Finish	The hard finish to be composed of pure white marble dust and properly quayed with plaster of paris. Lath, scratch coat, brown and hard finish all the walls in first and 2nd story - All the plastering to be done in the best manner and on the side walls continued down to the floor.

Cornice	Put cornice in Banking room, 8" x 10" inches made as per Danbury Bank plan. Also 1 center flower 4 feet diameter in ceiling.
Smoke Flues and Ventilating Flues	Leave smoke and ventilating flues in the walls as shown by plans properly (illegible) on the inside and care taken to keep them free so as to drain well.
Doors and Windows	Free stone trimmings to doors and windows as per plans.
Steps	Front steps of free stone as per plan Rear steps of blue stone - no iron railing to front steps.
Brick work	Center foundation wall of brick. All of the brick work in side walls and elsewhere to be of the best hard burnt brick and well laid in best sand and lime mortar. No four courses to rise more than one inch beyond the collected height of the bricks. Every course to be filled in and fully flushed up with mortar. The walls to be of the thickness and height marked on plans. One length of brick work to project out two inches all around the front window as shown by drawing. The whole of the outside of brick wall and chimney to be prepared for painting by being rubbed smooth in cement and to an even surface, and all the projectings also properly prepared for painting.
Portland Brown Stone	All the cut stone work for the front and sides and rear, including underpinning is to be of the best quality of Portland stone of even color and texture cut and set in the best manner agreeably to the Danbury Bank Front Elevation; and the side and rear window as per side Elevation Danbury Bank. - All to be polished and set with oil putty and cleaned off at the completion. All front windows to recess 8 inches. All the Ashler used for front base to return on the sides 12" no stone less than 5 inches thick.
Steps	The front steps to be made as shown by the plans etc. Steps 8" rise - nothing cut on the face and on both ends. Platform stones cut in same manner and running in and forming sill to the doors. Caps 6" long, 10" x 12" thick moulded as per drawings. - All front sills and blocks same as figured.

Coping stone	Coping stone to chimneys well anchored by bolts. All front caps and sills, ashler, front steps etc. properly set on good solid beds and all well anchored where required and all stones back jointed where found necessary to make a finish. All the stone work to be boarded up as soon as set to prevent damage to the work, - and all mouldings cut bold and effective.
Water Table	Free stone water table 6 inches wide with 2 inc. wash and a width sufficient to rest solid on the underpinning. All the free stone work neatly jointed and pointed.
Ventilators	Ventilators to be put in each chimney from 6 to 12 inches according to size of room near ceiling and near floor 8 by 12 inches.
	All of the several materials used to be of the best quality and the work done in the best and most workmanlike manner and to the satisfaction of the owner.
Chimneys	The chimneys to be the proper dimensions for the building and to be of such heighth above roof and ridge as may be required by the slate roof in order to carry smoke well - in other respects like drawings. - To be leaded and let in the brick and never the slate to prevent leakage and capped with free stone. -
Mantle and grate	Put hearth, grate and fixtures and slate mantle in back room, all not to cost over fifty dollars, but to be selected by committee.
	The committee reserves to itself during the progress of the work to direct such alterations as may be found expedient which alterations shall not vitiate or make void the contract, but shall be performed by the contractor according to the direction they shall receive, and such alterations whether addition or deductions are to be done at the rate the work is undertaken by the contractor.

Specifications of the Carpenters work and materials on Savings Bank Building at Southport Conn.

Dimensions as figured on the Southport plans and elevated 3

feet all around above ground. Length 45 feet by 26 feet wide.

Height of Stories	No Cellar First story 12'0" Second do 11'0" in the clear when finished Pitch of roof for slate, and not like that on elevation. To be built and finished in similar style and materials with those of the Danbury Bank Building as per Elevation, exceptin in those particulars and dimensions named and figured elsewhere-
Materials	All the materials used to be of the best quality of their kind,
Work	All of the work throughout to be done in the best and most workmanlike manner according to the specifications and plans and the Elevation of Danbury building excepting in the dimensions and other particulars named or figured on plans or specifications.
Timber	All the timber throughout is to be the best quality of milled white pine, except the rafters and truss work, which may be of spruce timber free from shakes sap and every defect.
Lumber	All the lumber for the joiners work to be clear well season white pine free from shakes, sap, knots and every defect.
Size of Timber	First floor joists 3" x 10" placed 16 in. from centers 2nd floor joists 2" x 12" placed 12" in. from centers. Furring joists for the ceiling of 2nd Story 2" x 8" in. placed 20" in. from centers Trimmers 4" in. thick by their respective depths All trimmer joists to have an excess five inch in thickness over the other joists. All timbers to be laid solid on the walls, and of equal width, with as little blocking as possible. Door Studs 3" x 4" All partitions braced with long braces. All studs placed 16" in from centres.
Bridging	Put two rows of briding to each floor in the wide part of building and one row to

to each floor in the narrow part - bridging pieces 2-1/2 in. x 2 in. fully butted against the joists and nailed at each end with two 20 in. nails Put wood lintels to all door and window openings of sufficient width and thickness.

Roof — Roof to be of slate similar to that of the Episcopal church at Southport like pitch and color of slate, and to be put on in the best manner and warrented against leaking. The roof boards grooved and tongued and running up and down the roof.

Rafters — Rafters 2" x 6" placed 20" from centres.

Trusses — Roof to be supported by trusses and iron rods with proper heads, plates, nts and screws, and properly framed and strapped at the feet with iron straps etc. to prevent spreading. -

Scuttle — Put a battened scuttle in roof 2'-6" x 3'-0" hung with strong hinges upon 4" in. curb Put on chain hasps and padlock and an opening 2'-6" x 5'-0" in the ceiling of 2nd story over the hall finished with lid and trimmed same as scuttle and frame around chimneys, scuttle and opening in ceiling.

Cover of Roof — Cover the roofs for slating with well seasoned (two words illegible) mill worked tongued and grooved spruce boards - well nailed to rafters; form proper gutters in same.

Tin — The scuttle and gutters to be covered with best gutter tin, soldered and made perfectly water tight - the tin turned up around scuttle curb.

Gutters & Leaders — Tin to gutters to run over and nailed to crown moulding on the outside of cornices Put two 3 inch tin leaders from cornices to ground secured with iron hold fasts let into the walls. The tin leaders painted same color as brick wall.

Partitions — Partitions as per plans. -

Furring — Furr all the outside brick walls and the ceilings throughout, with inch furring 2-1/2 inches wide 16" inches from centres - Also furr around vaults in both stories where necessary -

and fur out for inside blinds at all the windows Provide wood centres for arches and a Sufficiency of wall strips and blocks and all necessary furrings, brackets, and cradlings for plasterers. Put up rough ground for doorways, windows and bases throughout.

Floors

All the floors to be made of the best quality of Norway Pine inch boards tongue and grooved, planed smooth and not to exceed 4 inches in width and free from shakes loose and black knots and every defect. No two heading joints to come together and properly blined (?) nailed to joists.
Put yellow pine Sills to all doorways. All the 2nd floor joists prepared for deafening, all done in the usual manner.

Windows

All the window throughout except head lights to front doors to be double hung with weights; ogee sashes 1-1/2 inches thick. Axel pullies box frames, best quality of sash cord, brass fastenings, beaded hanging styles to front windows and all made complete.

Glass

Front windows and headlights all to be glazed with best quality plate glass All the remaining windows glazed with the best quality of French sheet glass - And all the glass well bedded in putty colored red in the mixing before put on - and to be left clean and whole at the completion of the building. Size of glass as per plans.

Cornices

Put up cornices as per plans, all made of clear well seasoned white pine limber, bracketed and secured to brick wall in the strongest manner.

Stairs

Put up stairs with an easy ascent say 8 inches rise and 11-1/2 inch tread Steps 1-1/4 inch finished with nosings turned newell, rail and turned balusters around the landings and rail fastened to wall with iron holdfasts. Rail 2-1/4" x 3" newell 5" in diameter balusters 1-3/4 inches all made of white wood except the rails which will be of mahogany. Newell and balusters painted in imitation of mahogany and rails newell and balusters to be varnished two good coats.

Ladder	Put ship ladder made of clear white pine with 5" in. tread from 2nd story to attic and fastened to side wall where shown on plan
Front doors	Front doors made as shown by the drawings 2 inches thick, panelled both sides and finished with raised mouldings like those of Danbury Bank Each half hinged with three 4" in. patent butts. To have strong locks and flush bolts and two setts of keys and plated furniture complete.
Inside Finish 1st Story	All the bases first story one inch thick and 8 in. wide, and base mouldings 2 inches high.
Windows & Blinds	All the windows to have inside blinds and finished with panel backs, plain jambs and soffetts and plain 7" in. architraves with beveled back bands mouldings.
Doors	All the room doors to be 1-3/8" in. thick double faced, plain moulded panels, architrave 7" wide - beveled back bands and finishing on plinths. Rear outside door 2 in. thick, 4 panels double faced and moulded. Closet doors 1-1/8" inches thick, one side paneled other side flush - Architraves 6"inches wide. Put a pair of inside sash fly doors covered with greesebay and hang with patent butss, springs and furniture complete. All the inside doors hung with two 3-3/4 inch Blake's Patent Butts.
Arches	Put arch over the space occupied by front windows as shown by plan and under stairs, over entrance to back room - the architraves 8 inches wide finishing on plinths. Mouldings same as for windows.
Counter	Put the counter as marked on plans built of clear white pine well seasoned finished with moulded base, raised moulded panels, bracketts with turned ornaments, projecting cornice, with counter top of black walnut, and oiled three coats of linseed oil. Put a fly wire screen one foot high fastened to a moulded base 5 inches high, turned post and rail, all complte in front of each counter-desk as per Danbury Bank The frame

to (word omitted) feet long - 4 Drawers (or 5, if required) to be put under the counter with handles and to run on rollers - two of them to be partitioned off for bills - Counter with fixings complete similar to that of the Danbury Bank. -

Closets — Put two shelves and all necessary iron hooks in all closets excepting coal closet - the hooks screwed to 1 x 3 inch pine strips fastened on wall.

2nd Story — Bases 1 inch thick 6 in. wide and two inch base mouldings

Windows — All windows in 2nd Story plain jambs and Soffetts - architraves 6" inch wide with beveled back bank mouldings and plain window stools.

Blinds — Inside blinds to this story as also to the 1st story - and no outside blinds at all - all the blinds made and trimmed in best manner to all the windows in building like pattern of Danbury Bank.

Doors 2nd Story — All the room doors to be 1-3/4 inches thick, 4 panels double faced and moulded, hung with two 3-3/4 inch Blakes patent butts - Architraves 6 inches wide, finishing on plinths with mouldings same as for windows The closet doors 1-1/8 inches thick one side paneled like room doors, the other side flush - finished same as other doors. All the bases in the closets one inch thick 5 inches wide, beaded on one edge.

Fence — A tight board fence to be built in rear of building (word omitted) feet from same and returned to the building, enclosing privy, well, and coal bins To be (word omitted) feet high and roof (word omitted) feet long resting on fence and supported in front by poasts set in the ground (word omitted) feet high - the roof to be battened and the whole painted same color as building two good coats In one corner of the above enclosure a privy to be built by contractor over a vault to be dug and stoned up by owners -

Privy — Privy (word omitted) feet long by (word omitted) feet wide, with two openings and window and door and lathed and plastered and painted same as building.

Fastenings	All locks, keys, latches, bolts, knobs, springs - all window and door and other furniture required to finish the same complete to be furnished by contractor and put on in the best manner.
Painting	All the wood work both outside and inside to be painted three good coats pure white lead and linseed oil. All the outside wood work except doors and window sashes and all the outside brickwork to be painted 3 good coats in color to suit the owners - Window sashes to be painted red and grained in imitation of mahogany Inside blinds to be painted cream color. - Front outside doors and rear door grained in imitation of oak or bronzed as the owners may elect, and varnished 3 good coats. All screws, rails and balusters to be varnished.
Painting of Walls and Chimneys	One coat of oil to be applied to the outside brick work before painting and the whole then painted 3 good coats pure white lead and best linseed oil of such color as chosen by the owners.
Blinds	Inside Blinds to have 3 good coats of paint in cream color.
Gate	Put a gate and fence in banking room, where shown on plans. Fence to have a 6 in. base and 2" x 3" moulded cap and (illegible) balusters 1 x 1-3/4 inches - same highth as the counter
Coal bin	Coal bins to be put up in back yard under the enclosure Door and window in rear may be put in a different place Put up posts and rails in front of building with entrances between the posts. Build stone foundation for fences on the sides and rear between District lot and Capt. Pike with picket fence on top and extend posts in rear out to same. Remove District fence at side.
Alterations	The Committee reserves to itself during the progress of the work to direct such alterations as may be found expedient, which alterations shall not vitiate or make void the contract, but shall be performed by the contractor according to the direction he shall receive and such alterations, whether additions or deductions are to be done at the rate the work is undertaken.

Materials	All of the several materials used to be of the best quality and the work done in the best and most workman like manner, and to the satisfaction of the owners.
Well Curb	Put well curb round well with chain pull and weight or such other means for raising water as the Committee shall direct.
The lot and foundations	The contractor to take the lot as it is at the date of this agreement and place the foundations on such bottom and footings as shall make the building secure and satisfactory to the committee.

This agreement made this the 13th day of September 1864 between Messrs. Sherman and Jelliff on the one part and the Southport Savings Bank by its Committee O. H. Perry of the other part Witnesseth - That the said Sherman and Jelliff in consideration of the covenants and agreements hereinafter mentioned to be performed by the said Southport Savings Bank, hereby agree to build for said Bank and do the work according to the foregoing specifications and according to the plans submitted to be done and complete before (words omitted) doing all the work and furnishing all the materials for the said Savings Bank grounds and buildings - excepting the rough stone for the foundations, digging and stoning the well and privy vault, the iron doors to vaults the iron safe and grading the grounds when finished - and the Southport Savings Bank in consideration of the said Sherman and Jelliff performing the covenant and agreements as aforesaid, hereby agree to pay them the sum of Eleven thousand two hundred dollars, as following (word omitted) hundred dollars when the roof is covered - (word omitted) hundred dollars when the scratch coat is on and the remaining sum when the whole is completed and accepted.

And it is further agreed by said parties in case there should be a difference of opinion between them as to the meaning and intensions of said specifications on plans, or as the quality or kind of material to be used, or in the workmanship or in anything relating to the contract, the matter indispute shall be left to two persons to decide, one to be selected by Each party, and in case they cannot agree, they shall select a third person, and then decision shall be final and binding on the parties.

Southport Sept. 13th 1864
Sherman & Jelliff (Signed)
The Southport Savings Bank
by its Committee O.H.Perry (Signed)

It is agreed that the outside walls, instead of being laid with good common hard brick and rubbed and painted as above

specified, may be laid with the best of Croton Front Brick, laid with as close a joint as practicable, in white mortar, and every course carred up and preserved vertically and horizontally true, and afterwards well jointed and cleared off and left so as to present a true and handsome face on the outside of the walls, and so finished without painting.

Sherman & Jelliff (Signed)

Southport Savings Bank
by its Committee O.H. Perry (Signed)

Prepared by Jan E. Cigliano
Staff Historian
Historic American
Buildings Survey
January 1979

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The Bank was erected in 1863-65. Its utilitarian design and institutional function make this handsome brick structure one of Southport's most important surviving buildings from this period. The symmetrical facade is trimmed with rounded brownstone drip moldings over windows and doors, and a deep, corbelled metal cornice. A small circular window ornaments the center of the pediment tympanum. The banking room's attractive counter partition is constructed of a woven iron grill and paneled wooden surfaces.

2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Two-and-a-half stories with partially exposed basement. The structure is rectangular and measures 26' (three-bay southeast front) x 45'.

2. Foundations: Rough fieldstone faced with cut brownstone blocks.

3. Wall construction, finish, color: Exterior walls are brick painted red.

4. Structural system, framing: Load bearing brick construction with wooden floor and ceiling joists. First-floor joists

are 2-3/4" x 9-3/4" members and placed 16" apart on center. They are framed into the exterior walls on one end and a longitudinal wooden beam (8" x 6") on the other. The attic framing consists of three large king post trusses framed with purlins supporting the roof rafters.

5. Porches, stoops: Two brownstone stoops on the front elevation's two end bays. Each consists of a landing and four steps. The stoops to the right leads into the banking room; the one on the left leads into the stairway to the second floor. Both stoops are framed by modern iron railings.

6. Chimneys: There were originally three chimneys: one sat on the roof gable near the rear wall; one was on the southwest (side) wall; and one was on the northeast wall. At present, the chimney on the northeast wall is the only one that remains.

7. Openings:

   a. Doorways and doors: Two identical arched doorways are on the southeast (front) elevation, forming a symmetrical composition. Each doorway has two narrow cast-iron six-paneled doors. The openings are surrounded by brownstone trim of rectangular cross-section. A heavier, round-arched brownstone drip-molding surmounts each arch.

   b. Windows: A round-arched double-hung sash window with brownstone trim is between the two entrances. The sash is six-over-eight light with arched mullion bars. Second-floor windows are squared six-over-six light double-hung sash. Each is surrounded by brownstone trim at the sides, projecting cut stone lintels and cornices overhead.

8. Roof:

   a. Shape, covering: Gable roof with the ridge running at a right angle to the street. The roof is now covered with asphalt shingles.

   b. Cornice, eaves: The projecting cornice which articulates the front gable pediment is denticulated, trimmed with heavy molding, and supported by corbelled brackets. A small circular window in the center of the pediment tympanum is framed with carved brownstone trim.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

   a. Basement: The unpartitioned space extends under the

full area of the main level and is used primarily for storage. A small stairway to the first floor is in the southwestern corner and a former brick coal bin is at the center of the southeast wall. The walls of the first-floor vault carry through to the basement, forming an inaccessible pier.

b. First floor: The rectangular first-floor plan consists of a banking room (20' x 19') at the southeast (front) end. Space at the banking room's southwestern corner is occupied by the stairway to the second floor - access to which is either from this room or an exterior doorway - and to the basement. The banking room's front half is used as a public space; the rear half is a working space. A counter separates the public and work areas; access to the work area is through a small opneing at the southwestern end. A vault opens off of the northeastern end of this rear area. Opening off of the northwestern end is a narrow hallway leading into the Directors' room at the rear of the building. Two small rooms, located against the vault wall, open off of the hallway - the front one is used for the storage of office supplies; the rear one is now used as a lavatory.

2. Stairways: A stairway leading to the second floor is at the southwestern corner of the banking room. The stairway which leads from the cellar to the first floor is constructed of rough wood with a "U" platform at the bottom.

3. Flooring: Modern linoleum with a wooden molded baseboard is in the banking room. Original wooden boards are in the Directors' meeting room and all second-floor spaces with the exception of the kitchen; linoleum covers the kitchen floor. Concrete flooring is in the basement.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Basement walls are covered with ground fieldstone. Plaster walls trimmed with a heavy projecting molded plaster cornice at the ceiling are in the banking room. The Directors' meeting room is also covered with plaster, though there is no cornice at the ceiling. The original second-floor walls were plaster with a molded wooden baseboard. Today, they are covered with plywood. All rooms have plaster ceilings.

5. Doorways and doors: Main entry doors in the banking room are of cast iron. The hall doorway has a six-paneled wooden door which is probably original. The doorway in the directors' room is framed by a brownstone lintel and has an iron door. Vault doors on the first and second floors are iron.

6. Decorative features and trim: The counter partition in the first-floor banking room which separates the public area from the tellers' work area is constructed of paneled wood up to the level of the counter. Above the counter is a very fine six-paneled iron grill. Each panel consists of a grid of woven thin metal strips, extending to approximately one foot from the ceiling.

7. Hardware: The first-floor vault, opening off of the northern corner of the banking room, measures 10'-10" x 4'-10". The walls are constructed of granite paving blocks; the door is of metal.

8. Mechanical equipment:

   a. Heating: A modern furnace in the basement provides the building with central heating.

   b. Lighting: Electrical fixtures have been installed throughout the building.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The bank faces southeast onto Main Street, near the intersection of Main Street and Harbor Road.

2. Outbuildings: None.

Prepared by John G. Waite
Project Supervisor
Historic American
Buildings Survey
September 1966

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with the Southport Historic District Commission, several members of whom provided the necessary funds. The project was completed in the summer of 1966 under the general direction of James C. Massey, then the Chief of HABS; Ralph Schwarz of the Ford Foundation; and Architect John C. Waite (Columbia University); with assistant architects Christopher Benninger (Harvard University), Richard Haines (University of Kentucky) and Andrew Craig Morrison (University of Michigan), and architectural historian David T. Van Zanten (Harvard University), at the HABS Field Office in Southport, Connecticut. The data was prepared and edited in HABS Washington office in December 1978 by Jan E. Cigliano, staff historian. Photographs were taken by HABS staff photographer Jack E. Boucher in September 1966.